

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01823 221607Z

70

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 221530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4909

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BENC, AG

SUBJECT: MOSTAGANEM STEEL PLANT

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1690 (B) STATE 180771

1. STEEL PLANT IN WESTERN ALGERIA, POSSIBLY AT MOSTAGANEM, HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BY ALGERIANS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. OCCASIONAL BITS OF PROGRESS HAVE BEEN SEEN: A PRELIMINARY ROUTE SURVEY FOR RAILROAD TO TRANSPORT ORE FROM GARA DJIBILET IS UNDERWAY; IN FALL OF 1975 A MAJOR U.S. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY HAD BRIEF DISCUSSIONS ON FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH ALGERIANS.

2. MINISTER OF PLAN ABDELLAH KHODJA RECENTLY STATED HOWEVER (SEE REFTEL (A) PARA 3) THAT CONTRACT FOR WESTERN ALGERIA STEEL COMPLEX UNLIKELY TO BE SIGNED IN THIS PLAN PERIOD. HE SAID THAT BOTH TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTED STEEL COMPLEX, AND THAT IT LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED FOR EVEN LONGER THAN DJIJEL STEEL COMPLEX.

3. COMMENT: GARA DJIBILET ORE IS HIGH IN IMPURITIES AND DIFFICULT TECHNICALLY TO PROCESS. (BELIEVE THIS IS TECHNICAL PROBLEM TO WHICH MINISTER REFERRING ABOVE). ORE THUS MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR STEEL MILL. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, A NEW 10 MILLION TON PER YEAR STEEL MILL IS WAY BEYOND ALGERIAN FINANCIAL CAPACITY AT PRESENT, A FACT WHICH

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ALGERIAN PLANNERS APPEAR TO RECOGNIZE. THOUGH

ALGERIANS MAY CONTINUE TO TRY TO KEEP IDEA OF  
PLANT ALIVE,BELIEVE ITS PROSPECTS IN FORESEEABLE  
FUTURE ARE DIM TO THE POINT OF INVISIBILITY.PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOSTAGANEM STEEL PLANT  
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